

S. eases law on Israeli boycott

WASHINGTON, March 31 (R). — A U.S. Congressional committee today approved compromise legislation designed to counter U.S. business participation in the Arab boycott of Israel without upsetting American relations with Arab states. Members of the House of Representatives international relations committee worked out compromise in consultation with the Carter administration, which had feared an earlier draft of the legislation would harm U.S. Middle East trade and provoke confrontation with the Arabs.

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Prince Hassan arrives in Vienna

VIENNA, March 31 (Agencies). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan arrived here today for a three-day official visit during which he will have talks with the Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, and other government officials. He was welcomed at the airport by Dr. Kreisky, Foreign Minister Dr. Willibald Pahr and Trade Minister Dr. Josef Stambacher. Later the Crown Prince and the chancellor lunched with Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschläger. The luncheon was also attended by Dr. Pahr, Dr. Stambacher and Jordan's Industry and Trade Minister Najmuddin Dajani.

Sadat begins Mideast talks in Bonn

BONN, March 31 (R). — President Anwar Sadat of Egypt began talks with West German leaders here today at the start of a tour of three Western capitals to discuss Middle East peace prospects.

Mr. Sadat flies to Paris on Saturday before holding talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Washington next week.

The Egyptian leader, who enjoys warm relations with West Germany, was sure to be promised further development aid during what was being described in Bonn as a "working visit".

A protocol meeting with Federal President Walter Scheel was scheduled for later tonight followed tomorrow by political discussions with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The U.S. secretary of state flew into Bonn a few hours before Mr. Sadat to see Herr Schmidt on the way home from talks in Moscow.

President Sadat wants fresh concerted efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute and favours an early resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference, which last met in December 1973.

During his talks in Bonn, Paris and Washington, the Egyptian leader is expected to push for further recognition by the West of the central importance of promising Palestinians a homeland.

On the economic side, official sources in Bonn said the West German government would inform President Sadat during his visit here of a new slice of 250 million marks (about \$80 million) development aid for 1977.

This is slightly more than last year's figure.

A scheduled meeting of the two-nation commission set up to discuss aid questions may have to be postponed because of the absence of Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, who had to cancel his trip here because of his mother's death.

President and Mrs. Sadat will return to West Germany on Monday following their Washington visit.

Franco-Israeli ties back to normal, say De Guiringaud, Rabin

TEL AVIV, March 31 (R). — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud said today Franco-Israeli relations were back to normal.

Israeli Defence Minister Shimon Peres, regarded here as a Francophile, said after a meeting with the foreign minister he "felt Paris had got over its enthusiasm for the Arab cause."

French officials accompanying M. de Guiringaud said his 48-

hour official visit to Israel had gone "magnificently".

Israeli officials, however, appeared to be more guarded in their reaction to the visit, designed to smooth out a decade of stormy relations between the two countries.

Relations hit their nadir earlier this year when a French court released Palestinian guerrilla Abu Dawud.

Informed sources said Israeli officials appeared to be perplexed by the warmth of the French minister's statements, which might be interpreted cynically as being aimed at pro-Israeli sentiment in France itself.

M. de Guiringaud confirmed to newsmen that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had been invited to visit France.

The French minister, who arrived last night, had a 90-minute meeting with Mr. Rabin today, after which M. de Guiringaud said they had agreed "Franco-Israeli relations were now back to normal."

M. de Guiringaud renewed an invitation to Mr. Rabin to visit France sometime before mid-July and the Israeli premier was reported to have accepted in principle.

The French minister also handed Israeli President Ephraim Katzir a message from President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing saying he would be glad to meet the head of the Israeli state if he were to visit Europe.

Mr. Peres told reporters after his meeting with M. de Guiringaud that he felt France now had "gotten over its enthusiasm for the Arab cause which in the past bordered on support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

France now had a more "guarded" attitude towards the Middle East conflict, Mr. Peres said. But informed Israeli sources said M. de Guiringaud in his discussions today was not precise on France's position concerning the Palestinian issue.

The Israeli press and radio gave M. de Guiringaud's visit full coverage while recalling throughout that France had given steady support to the Arab cause since the June 1967 Middle East war.

Lebanese right claims leftist bid to retake Taybeh repulsed

BEIRUT, March 31 (AFP). — At least 15 people were killed in fighting around the southern Lebanese village of Taybeh, which rightwing forces claimed to have captured from Palestinian forces yesterday, the Health Ministry said today. Rightwing sources said that at least 22 Palestinians and leftists were killed in yesterday's clash and in an abortive bid by the Palestinians to retake Taybeh today. The rightwing sources said that the Palestinian counter-thrust on Taybeh pulled back after four hours of bitter fighting. Rightwing leaders have called for the application of new restrictions on the Palestinians, limiting their presence in the border region to certain areas and obliging them to report their military movements to the Lebanese authorities. Their strategy, in the view of analysts here, was to promote tension in the south to secure political concessions from the government in Beirut.

Majesty King Hussein addresses the audience at the graduation ceremony held at the Royal Police Academy here today. In the background, from left to right, Interior Minister, Minister of Court Amen Khammash, of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, and of Public Security Maj. Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat. (JNA)

police graduation ceremony

Hussein: The times require alertness

AN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein has warned that national political circumstances in which the Middle East is passing are extremely delicate and sensitive and require alertness, in particular, the utmost vigil and courage.

The King was speaking at a graduation ceremony at the Police Academy here of Public Security cadets from the Gulf states Thursday.

International conspiracies," His Majesty said, "are at work to undermine and liquidate our cause. Being at the forefront of this cause, Jordan, consequently, is first affected by these treacherous conspiracies," King Hussein said.

Therefore, citizens of this country should be on the watch. A Public Security Department should stand at the highest level of alertness, preparedness and efficiency, the King said.

His Majesty said an "honourable future for the Arabs" lay in enlightened development, respect for past history and rejection of rashness and of reckless internal disputes. "We are working," His Majesty explained, "along two parallel serious work in the field of construction and economic development on one hand and alertness and resolution in the stability of our country on the other."

Twenty-eight police cadets were graduated from the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar. They completed a one-year training course including legal, cultural and applied courses.

The ceremony was attended by a large audience including Minister of Defence, the Chief of the Royal Court, Abdul Hamid Sharaf, the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and other top officials.

USSR signs treaty with Mozambique

At Union and Mozambique signed a friendship and cooperation treaty regarded as a triumph of Soviet foreign policy.

Nikolai Podgorny's on tour of Southern Africa, signed at the Pretoria here, was the eighth and significant Mr. Podgorny's 10-day visit at consolidating and Soviet influence in the area of Southern Africa.

The pact would apparently place Mozambique in the same category as Somalia and Angola, which have also concluded friendship and cooperation treaties with the Soviet Union.

Addressing tens of thousands at a mass meeting which was the high point of his four-day visit, Mr. Podgorny said the pact would strengthen ties between the two countries.

on over the past year and recently the ruling Frelimo Party said it would become an Orthodox Marxist-Leninist state.

Nevertheless, foreign observers here were surprised Mozambique had gone so far as to formalise and strengthen its links with Moscow by signing the treaty, despite the aid the Kremlin gave to Frelimo during the long war with Portugal up to independence 21 months ago.

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Vital witness in House probe of Kennedy murder found dead

WASHINGTON, March 31 (R). — A Russian-born teacher told a journalist before his apparent suicide this week that others besides Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in President Kennedy's murder, a U.S. Congressional panel disclosed today.

The House of Representatives assassinations committee, which is probing the killings of the president and Dr. Martin Luther King, released previously secret testimony from a Dutch journalist who said he had known the dead man, Mr. George de Mohrenschildt, for 11 years.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt, who was found dead on Tuesday at a house in Palm Beach, Florida,

with a bullet wound in the head, has been described by the panel as a crucial witness who might have had advance knowledge of the Kennedy murder.

The investigators said Dutch Journalist Wilhelm Oltman reported to the panel on March 18 that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had visited him recently in Holland.

He told the journalist he had been responsible for Mr. Oswald's activity and that others besides Mr. Oswald were involved in the Kennedy killing.

"The purpose of his trip was to divulge for the first time his knowledge of the assassination of the president, and he indicated that he was responsible for Mr. Oswald's activity, and that there were others involved who were involved in the actual shooting of the president," the committee transcript said.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt died shortly after a committee investigator tried to contact him to question him about his knowledge of the Kennedy killing.

Committee investigators said the Oltman information was "new, sensitive and unique" and required further probing.

CASTRO ARRIVES IN ALGIERS

ALGIERS, March 31 (AFP). — Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived here today after a visit to Angola. Immediately after his arrival Premier Castro was taken by Algerian President Houari Boumedienne to the Conference Centre at the Club des Pins, some 30 kms outside Algiers where the 261 members of the National Assembly, the cabinet, the diplomatic corps and leaders of mass organisations were waiting. President Boumedienne said it was "a great honour" to have Dr. Castro present at this special meeting of the national assembly.

state visit here, Mr. Podgorny ruled out "any conciliation" with the white minority regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa and said Moscow would oppose "any attempt to preserve these racist regimes."

See earlier story on p. 6

Chirac gives president his qualified support Giscard urges new cabinet to resolve economic crisis in time for elections

March 31. (AFP). — Valéry Giscard d'Estaing exhorted his new cabinet to bring France out of its economic crisis in the next 12 months, in parliamentary elections scheduled for March 1978.

During the first meeting of the new cabinet, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said the new cabinet had two essential tasks: "to bring the French out of the crisis while maintaining balance," and "to set up a coherent programme for social and economic development."

He reminded ministers that they were henceforth to speak in the government's name rather than in the names of the political parties to which several of them belong.

M. Giscard d'Estaing received a qualified pledge of support from M. Chirac, M. Barre's predecessor as premier and the man who defeated the president's candidate for the post of mayor of Paris in elections earlier in March.

The Gaullists, M. Chirac pledged at a meeting of the party's members of parliament at Les Baux de Provence in southern France, would join in a political pact with the president's own independent Republican Party and the pro-government Centrists, but their watchwords would be loyalty and vigilance.

The Gaullists would back the reform programme proposed by the government, M. Chirac said. But he warned that "this plan for 12 months cannot evidently constitute an adequate reply to the Common Programme (of the opposition union of the left)."

"We need an overall project to oppose that of our adversaries," M. Chirac declared. Meanwhile, the Communist Party leader today called for a top-level meeting between himself, Socialist Party leader François Mitterrand and leftwing radical leader Robert Fabre to update the Common Programme adopted by them in 1972 when they formed the union of the left.

In overall terms, M. Marchais told the Communist Party Central Committee, the Common Programme of the left was "more valid than ever" because of the economic crisis. But changes in France since 1972 meant that some of the programme's goals needed to be re-targeted for the coming elections, notably because of increased unemployment.

Commenting on the new government, M. Marchais said it was hard to forget that the new ministers were the "zealous artisans" of France's present problems. "It will be difficult for these men and these parties to get back their political virginity," he said.

The Paris stock exchange plunged again today, reflecting disappointment in the market over composition of Premier Barre's second cabinet.

Over 3 per cent on average was clipped off the value of leading French industrial shares, with some losing between 5 and 10 per cent. Ten days ago, the market dropped by over 4 per cent because of the strong gains made by the left in the French municipal elections.

"U.S. is trying to damage our security"

Gromyko charges in angry press conference

MOSCOW, March 31 (R). — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, pounding a table in anger at times, accused the United States tonight of using "doubtful if not to say cheap" methods in negotiations here this week on limiting strategic arms.

He said American proposals were an attempt to damage Soviet security.

The charges were made by

Mr. Gromyko at the first press conference called in Moscow by a top Soviet leader for over a decade. It was staged just a few hours after U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance left Moscow at the end of a three-day visit.

Occasionally gesticulating to emphasise his points, the clearly impassioned foreign minister angrily denied that in rejecting one U.S. plan the Kremlin

was refusing to endorse a major disarmament measure.

"It is being said by the other side that in Moscow a broad programme of disarmament was put forward and that the Soviet leadership did not accept it. That does not correspond to reality. It is an intrinsically false version," he declared.

"No one proposed such a programme to us," the 67-year-old foreign minister said, clearly referring to Mr. Vance's proposal for all-round cuts in the current arsenals of strategic weapons held by the two powers.

Throughout his 80-minute statement to the press conference, partly read from a prepared text and partly delivered off the cuff, Mr. Gromyko insisted that all major disarmament plans in recent years had come from the Soviet Union.

But despite the stern tone of his remarks, Mr. Gromyko reaffirmed what he described as the Soviet commitment to seek a deepening of detente and to maintain "good and friendly relations" with the United States.

Vance in U.K. after Bonn

LONDON, March 31 (AFP). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived here today from Bonn to continue briefing European leaders about his talks in Moscow which ended today.

Mr. Vance was due to meet British Prime Minister James Callaghan later tonight and sources said the two men would probably also discuss plans for a coming summit here and the situation in Southern Africa.

Before leaving Bonn Mr. Vance had a four-hour meeting with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Later Mr. Schmidt said he did not consider that the rejection by the Soviet leaders of new American proposals on strategic arms limitations indicated that efforts towards agreement of a new limitation agreement (SALT) had floundered.

Basic U.S. and Western interests, like those of the Soviet Union, could only eventually converge towards a search for a SALT-2 agreement, Mr. Schmidt said. "We are not yet at the end of the road and tangible results cannot be expected from a first meeting," he added.

Mr. Vance, before leaving Bonn, said that besides the Soviet talks he and Mr. Schmidt had reviewed the Middle East question, the situation in Southern Africa and plans for a conference on European security and cooperation due to take place in Belgrade.

Mr. Schmidt added that Mr. Vance will give a detailed briefing on his negotiations in Moscow to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Plans to brief NATO demonstrated the close links the U.S. has with its European allies, Mr. Schmidt said.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (Agencies). — Officials here saw no need today for a crash weapons build-up to protect America if there is no strategic arms limitation agreement with the Kremlin this year, although President Carter could step up the weapons program as a bargaining counter.

The administration was disappointed by the failure of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's Moscow talks, but officials took their cue from a remark by President Carter last night that "I'm not discouraged at all."

A joint communique in Washington and Moscow did not say much about strategic arms except to note that the matter would be discussed again in Geneva in May.

In discussing Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) last night, Mr. Carter said he would have to consider a speed-up in weapons development if the Russians did not negotiate in good faith in Geneva.

The president also said that he would not change his position on the question of human rights in the Soviet Union, adding that "I do not think it is accurate to link the human rights questions and the SALT negotiations."

Finally, the president rejected the Soviet interpretation of the November 1974 Vladivostok accord between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Soviets claim that in that accord, the United States promised to limit production of its Cruise missile, which the Soviet Union wants to include in any further U.S.-Soviet agreement limiting strategic arms.

U.S., USSR discuss M.E. in May Joint communique ends Vance's Moscow visit

WASHINGTON, March 31 (AFP). — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko will meet at Geneva in May to discuss principally the Middle East problem, it was announced here today.

The announcement came in a joint Soviet-U.S. communique following Mr. Vance's three-day visit to Moscow during which the USSR turned down two new American proposals on strategic arms limitations.

The brief communique on the Moscow talks had little to say about their failure, announced yesterday, to reach a new accord on curbing strategic arms.

It simply noted that proposals for a new Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement (SALT) occupied the central place in the talks. The communique said exchanges between Mr. Vance and the Soviet Foreign Minister had been "fruitful and constructive."

But it did not disclose what they were.

The communique said the talks included discussion of a conference planned in Belgrade in June on implementation of the 1975 Helsinki Declaration on European Security and Cooperation, and the Cyprus, Southern Africa and Middle East problems.

Special attention was given to the Middle East, it said, and both sides "agreed that cooperation between the U.S. and the USSR... is essential in bringing about a just and lasting peace in the area."

Women find a developing role in Jordan's work force-II

This is the second part of a two part series on the role of women in Jordan's economy. It is taken from a research paper presented last year at the symposium on manpower development in Amman. This part deals with the effect of the manpower drain on Jordan's work force and the role of women in the economy.

A brief glimpse of drain

The local labour market suffers a great shortage in the technical labour force. This is clearly depicted in generally high wages, particularly those given skilled workers, resulting from increased internal and external demand in view of the expansion in large development projects currently carried out in Jordan and the other states in the region. Since indications are that these projects will continue inside and outside Jordan, it is expected that demand on Jordanian technical skills will continue in the future, rendering the problem even graver. In other words, Jordan no more complains of a general inadequacy in labour as a whole; it suffers from a dangerous shortage in skilled labour. The supply of the skilled human resources is inelastic since it requires long training periods, being absolutely one of the most significant factors of production. The continuous drain of this basic element is undoubtedly considered one of the most important developmental problems currently facing Jordan.

Despite the lack of studies, research and comprehensive statistics on those who leave the country seeking work abroad, it is noted that the number of people who, during 1975, applied for certificates verifying their employment reached 4820. Such certificates are usually given to persons wishing to leave the country in order to be used as documents stating the standard of their skill and practical experience. But, thousands leave the country to work outside without necessarily applying for such certificates. Most of these had already been contracted by delegations from those labour importing countries.

All economic sectors -- especially construction -- have been affected by this phenomenon. Of the 4820 persons, the ratio of technicians directly engaged in the construction sector was around 45 per cent. Masons, carpenters, electricians, sanitation technicians, bricklayers, wall painters, draughtsmen, surveyors and blacksmiths. Technicians in the industrial services sector, such as mechanics, electrical repairmen, automobile body repairmen, painters and carpenters, accounted for 39 per cent of those who have been drained out. The rest (accountants, department directors, typists,

and translators) accounted for 15 per cent of those who left. It is to be noted that of those 4820, only 12 females sought to leave the country and that their fields of specialisation were not those from which the Jordanian labour market suffers a shortage. In comparison, 1070 technicians of all nationalities entered the country in 1975. Of these, 76 were engineers (mechanical, civil and electrical) and architects.

Of the entrants, 62 per cent were engaged in the construction sector, 24 per cent in the industrial services sector and 14 per cent in the administration services and nursing sector. Egyptians accounted for 34 per cent of the total; 11 per cent were Syrians and 10 per cent were Arabs of other nationalities. The rest were non-Arabs and constituted around 45 per cent of those who entered Jordan in 1975 for work. Therefore, it is noted that the number of Jordanian technicians filtering out of the country greatly exceeds that of non-Jordanians who enter the country; bearing in mind that statistics on those who leave are not complete, while statistics on those who enter the country are more comprehensive and accurate. This can be attributed to rising prices here and to higher wages and salaries in the Arabian Gulf area at such rates with which Jordan cannot compete.

As a whole, the drain problem suffered by Jordan can be summarised as follows:

- 1 — The ratio of skilled workers opting to leave the country is high and it is increasing as a result of mounting demand in the neighbouring countries.
- 2 — The ratio of females leaving the country is very low compared to the total number of those filtering out.
- 3 — Outside demand for technical workers constitutes a basic factor in the overall demand (local and external) for these skills.
- 4 — The dimensions of outside demand for Jordanian workers cannot be precisely determined due to uncontrollable variables such as, the competition between some countries exporting technical skills and the varied nature of developmental projects in the countries importing skills. This makes it difficult to determine the type and volume of those filtering out in the future.

Drain and the five-year plan

The implementation of the Five-Year Plan is expected to augment the crisis of labour shortage especially if the pre-

sent circumstances prevail in the labour market. At present, no official figures are available about the plan's requirements of skilled labourers, but, preliminary unofficial estimates indicate that the implementation of the Five-Year Plan requires 37,000 technicians, of whom only 24,000 are available, assuming that all those males and females who are expected to graduate will join the labour market, and that the drain phenomenon will completely stop. But, these two assumptions are in conflict with reality since indications are that the drain will continue and that the level of women's participation in the labour market will remain relatively low.

Therefore, Jordan will face a shortage of 13,000 trained technicians. This deficit entails two possibilities: To cripple the ability to implement some of the projects or to cover the shortage in the labour market by luring workers from abroad. The second alternative embodies a rise in the cost of the projects which will lower their returns. The question is: What then is the solution?

Proposals to solve the drain problem

Numerous solutions have been suggested, but planners have so far not been able to determine the dimensions and consequences of such proposals. Some of these proposals

will be presented herein as examples:

It is said that one of the most important factors for the intensity of drain is the low level of wages in comparison to what is paid outside Jordan. Why then don't we raise local wages in a bid to eliminate the reason behind drain and to encourage those working outside to return home and participate in the country's development projects. Such a solution sounds logical and practical had Jordan had financial resources parallel to those available to the labour importing countries. But the fact is that Jordan is currently unable to compete with the neighbouring countries and does not intend to do so at the cost of the development of the sister Arab countries, for Jordan views its economic development as an integral part of economic development in the Arab countries. Raising the level of wages, therefore, is not the ideal solution, even though it will help in curbing the future drain movement.

It is also proposed that Jordan enact the necessary legislation to prevent the drain of technicians. This also sounds reasonable and practical and may stop drain entirely. But, the system of free enterprise, upon which Jordan's economy rests, stands in the way of implementing such measures. The free movement of the labour force is one of the

foundations of free enterprise. There are, in addition, administrative difficulties inherent in such measures.

It is also proposed that the government expand its local technical training facilities, create an ideal local environment (for example, by expanding housing projects), increase the supply of labour by importing technicians or formulate special training programmes for the drainers in cooperation with the importing countries. In fact, all these proposals sound logical, but their negative aspects could exceed the positive ones. In other words, the economic feasibility of such proposals is not encouraging and they are not expected to radically solve the problem. Indeed, the multiplicity of proposed solutions reflects the gravity of the problem. But researchers have not been able to determine the size and dimensions of this problem and most proposals and recommendations have been of momentary or short-term nature. Drain continues, male drainers constitute the majority and their ratio is increasing as a result of the huge developmental projects in the host countries which enjoy higher incomes from oil revenues. And, since Jordan cannot alone control outside demand, its labour policy must stem from the nature of the problem it faces. It must meet local demand in the light of the demand for these skills in the

outside labour markets. To achieve this end, a new vocational training policy must be adopted. Dependence upon the existing educational establishments does not solve the problem. The institutional training, currently followed, requires long periods of time of which the theoretical side exhausts a large amount. Therefore, the local labour market cannot wait long. The adoption of a policy of extensive, short-term education is one of the principal solutions that would supply the local market, in the shortest possible time, with its needs of trained technical skills. In addition, women must enter certain training fields, not trodden before, so that the door would be open for them to engage in some technical occupations the external and local demand for which is expected to grow in the future. As mentioned earlier, the ratio of female drainers is very low. Therefore, if women were to enter these occupations, this supply would principally be meeting the local demand and outside demand will have very little effect.

Available statistics indicate that the occupations for which women are trained in our educational establishments do not exceed 14 of the original 43 and that the ratio of those women expected to graduate from these technical institutions during the next five years will not exceed 32 per cent of the entire number of graduates. If the teachers training centres were excluded, the ratio would drop to only 23 per cent. It should be noted here that such policy (opening the field for women to be trained in other than the traditional occupations) should not imply that women would be competing with men in the traditional male occupations; their role

would be complementary to that of men.

The field for women is currently limited to some traditional occupations, such as teachers, nurses, typists, secretaries, seamstresses and telephone operators and other occupations which are characteristically female in nature. In spite of the fact that women have recently found themselves engaged in the various aspects of economic and social activity, the entrance of these women into these activities is still slow at best, bearing in mind that there are other occupations still open to women, which do not conflict with our traditions and social customs. For example, women can engage in most of the sections of the Telecommunications Corporation. Of a total of 2,200 administrative and technical employees, there are only 300 women. The number can be increased to 1,500 if proper training for women is provided. Women can work in the afore mentioned sector as switch-board operators. Currently, not a single woman is engaged in such an occupation in spite of the fact that its nature entirely suits what any woman can do without infringing upon customs and traditions. With the exception of evening shifts for exchange operators, there is no justification for preventing women from engaging in this field, the task of which do not exceed the maintenance, testing and repair of equipment. But, the entrance of women into this field must be preceded by slight amendments to the system of industrial schools. For women to qualify to become exchange operators, for example, they have to be graduates of an industrial school (electricity branch) or holders of the secondary education certificate

(science stream). Unless admission policy to technical schools is amended to allow women to enrol in them, scope for women will remain limited.

Acceptance alone is not enough; women must be encouraged to enrol in such schools and the inducements for must be offered. This policy can be applied in the sections of the Telecommunications cooperation so girls can work as maintenance technicians in manual and international exchanges, operating technicians in the department or as draught women in the networks department. It could also be used and necessary to start thinking about implementing this policy in some other government departments, where women occupy some secretarial administrative positions which fit women's nature, channeling them to other productive jobs. The private sector, suffering from the drain problem more than the public sector and prospects for women participation are wider and more comprehensive. Women can work in printing offices, assembly plants and in the maintenance of precision tools. They also join the construction sector as surveyors and soil analysts, all the medical professions, especially in laboratories and the radiology departments as well as the services sector in the maintenance of television sets and radio sets and refrigerators. They can also work as accountants, bookkeepers and the like. Their entrance into these occupations has as a prerequisite their enrollment in local vocational schools and centres. Their encouragement to do

Tomorrow: Women's work cost vs. Returns

Chimney sweeping becomes an honoured and lucrative job

BOSTON, Mass. (CSM). — No one paid much attention to Gramak Helmich. After all, he was only the town chimney sweep.

No one paid much attention, that is, except for young Ken Hinkley. He used to spend his summers tiptoeing behind Gramak over the sooty rooftops in Mount Olive, Illinois. That was 20 years ago.

In the meantime Ken rose to relative fame and fortune (playing golf in the Orange Bowl for the University of Missouri and becoming a successful insurance salesman in the East), but he never forgot the medieval technology Gramak taught him. And now it is paying off.

Shortly before the energy crisis spawned the national wood-burning craze and the subsequent rash of chimney fires, Mr. Hinkley traded in his white-collar job for a frayed top hat, black tails, and tattered, sooty scarf. He rose to the dirty (but now lucrative) distinction of being among the growing handful of American chimney sweeps.

Mr. Hinkley and his new company now clean some 20 chimneys a week. "We even did the 10 chimneys at Bill Cosby's house in western Massachusetts," he boasts, and he is repeatedly called by brides-to-be who ask him to make an appearance at the wedding. "Chimney sweeps are good luck, you know," he explains.

Since he started his business eight years ago in Williamsburg, Massachusetts — where he lives in a home with four fireplaces and two wood stoves — nearly a dozen new chimney sweeps have taken his lead and gone into business.

Now even his 11-year-old daughter, Becky, goes out on the job on Saturdays "for those hard-to-reach places," and Mr. Hinkley hasn't ruled out the possibility that she will be the one to take over the business when he retires.

Mr. Hinkley's success story is hardly hyperbole. He is one of an estimated 100 chimney sweeps in America who are doing more business than they can handle. America's image of the chimney sweep never has extended much beyond Mary Poppins' "Chim-chim-chee..." Yet more and more of the nation's 25 million fireplaces and woodstoves are being rekindled with firewood as an alternative to high-priced fuel oil.

In Europe, chimney sweeping has been big business for centuries. In Norway, for instance, the service is offered by the government much the way an American municipality provides snow removal or street lighting. In Oslo alone, some 28 sweeps clean 46,000 chimneys twice a year, which is credited with cutting the number of chimney fires over the last two decades from 400 to 30.

According to a Maine wood-stove dealer, Eva Horton, a

city like Boston reports 10 times as many chimney fires as Oslo, and last year alone the United States was swept with 41,000 chimney fires which caused an estimated damage of 19 million dollars.

In Norway and other European countries, chimney sweeps are required to take several years of training in fire prevention, inspection, and chimney cleaning. Once certified, the sweep is given the privilege of wearing the traditional top hat, etc. — a uniform that dates back to the 1500s, when chimney sweeps were the town peepers and wore frayed hand-me-downs donated by local undertakers.

In the last several years the American chimney sweep movement has become so established that last month 20 sweeps (one-quarter of the country's total) were able to call their own convention in Portland, Maine.

Outfitted in the traditional garb (the tails, the top hats, but no blackened faces), they swapped sweeping tips, mulled over the mixed blessings of the bullish market, and formed the Chimney Sweep Guild. The guild was set up to train and certify the hundreds of new people expected to learn the ancient art over the next several years.

Most everyone there had his own sooty success story to swap.

Take Ronald Mazzeo, from Owls Head, Maine, who gave up a 37,000 dollar-a-year job as a marine engineer six years ago to become a professional chimney sweep. Now he has a six-man crew, gets "as many as 50 calls a night" from people who want their chimneys cleaned, has gone on a lecture tour of Maine's fire department, and claims to be earning almost as much as he was before.

Mr. Mazzeo is proud to have looked down 8,000 chimneys in his short career ("only fell down one," he adds) and boasts, "when I get through with your chimney you can eat ice cream off the flue."

According to both sweeps and fire officials, the principal cause of chimney fires is not so much the collection of soot as the black, gummy creosote that accumulates in stove pipes and chimneys. Pine logs, fuel oil, and wood with a high moisture content give off large amounts of creosote when burned.

European chimney sweeps report that as little as two millimetres of soot or creosote on the inside of a chimney pipe can cut down by 10 to 15 per cent the amount of heat generated. For safety and economy's sake the sweeps' rule of thumb in America is: Clean the chimney once a year or every seven to nine cords of wood burned. The going rate these days is about 40 to 50 dollars per chimney, with reduced rates for "multiple-chimney houses."

Although America's understanding of chimney sweeping may still be back in the Dark Ages, the profession itself has made considerable progress since those grim days in medieval Europe when orphans like Oliver Twist were lowered down chimneys in bags and expected to scrape off the soot and climb to the roof before they were singed by the fire lit in the hearth below

them by the chimney sweep boss.

Amazingly, the technology of cleaning chimneys remains stuck in the Middle Ages. The sweep must still climb to the roof, lower a weighted brush down the chimney by rope, and collect the pile of sooty scrapings left behind in the fireplace. (Only on rare occasions does a sweep actually climb down into the chimney.)

There's another tradition in the trade that hasn't changed over the centuries. Chimney sweeps by nature are an independent lot. They like to keep secrets (not to mention tools) of the trade under their hats.

Thus, organising the recent chimney sweeps' convention in Portland took a neutral but interested third party — Eva Horton, a go-getter of a woman who has such a penchant for peddling wood-burning stoves that she has become known for miles as the "Stove Queen."

In the past three years alone she and her company, Krista Associates, exclusive importer of Norwegian Jotul stoves — has put more than 30,000 wood-burning stoves in homes around the U.S. She confesses her immediate interest in organising and promoting chimney sweeps stems largely from "feeling responsible" for the national wood heat "movement" and subsequent chimney fires.

With the ongoing wood-burning craze in America, chimney sweeps in this country are hardly paupers these days, yet most of them exercise the privilege — after successfully completing an apprenticeship — of donning the traditional garb that has become the calling card of their profession.

As one young chimney sweep proudly put it: "When we put on the sooty old top hats and tails, it's a sign of distinction, of status. These days people turn their heads to look at us. It's like wearing a cap and gown to graduation."



Most jobs are done from the roof -- the sweep rarely climbs inside.



The end result -- a pile of sooty scrapings in the fireplace.



The main job is to get to the top -- then the action starts.

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Bonn protests Israeli arrest of 2 W. Germans

BOON, March 31 (R). — West Germany yesterday protested strongly to Israel for not being told for more than a year of the arrest of two young West Germans in connection with a planned attack on an Israeli airliner, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman confirmed Israeli press reports that 23-year-old Brigitte Schulz and Thomas Reuter, 24, had been arrested in connection with an attempted attack on the airliner at Nairobi airport.

The spokesman said an "emphatic protest" was delivered to the Israeli Foreign Ministry yesterday after the Israeli official announcement that the pair were facing a military trial together with three Arab guerrillas.

The Israeli newspaper Maariv said the three Arabs were arrested just before carrying out the attempt and the West German pair were detained when they went to find out what had happened to them.

The spokesman said the West German government was not informed until March 15 this year that the two suspects had been in jail since January 1976. The government reserved the right to take further steps after checking all details of the information given by Israel, he added.

Informed sources said West

Germany believed Israel's action was a violation of international law, which prohibits the arrest of citizens from third countries and provides for legal assistance.

KUWAIT TO BUY SOVIET MISSILES

KUWAIT, March 31 (R). — The weekly newspaper Al-Hadaf said today that Kuwait and the Soviet Union have agreed on an arms deal which will be formally signed soon.

Kuwait will receive Sam-7 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, the newspaper said without giving a source.

The newspaper added that the two countries had postponed indefinitely negotiations for the supply of heavy weapons such as artillery and tanks.

Al-Hadaf said the agreement followed a visit to Kuwait by a Soviet military delegation last week.

The newspaper said Kuwait preferred instructors from Arab countries such as Syria and Egypt which use Soviet weapons.

Dr. Castro concludes African tour

LUANDA, March 31 (AFP). — Cuban Premier Fidel Castro left for home today after a five-day official visit to Angola where his troops are helping the Marxist government extend its control over the country.

Dr. Castro's initially programmed three-day visit was extended for 48 hours so that he could meet nationalist leaders Joshua Nkomo of Zimbabwe, Samujoma of Namibia and Oliver Tambo of the banned African National Congress of South Africa.

The Cuban premier was seen off at the airport today by President Agostinho Neto and Central Committee members of the ruling Peoples Liberation Movement. Army chiefs and members of the government, diplomatic corps and the Cuban resident mission were also present.

Dr. Castro said he had been delighted to see the "great progress" achieved in the last 12 months.

He said his visit had helped "strengthen the ties between us and to cement our friendship still further." He said Angola's main problem in rebuilding the economy was the lack of skilled personnel "the Portuguese didn't even train any drivers".

But he added "Angola is making out very well and I am very optimistic about the outcome of the Angolan revolution."



NO COMMENT — Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles of Luxembourg last November when the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh paid a state visit to Luxembourg. Buckingham Palace has refused to comment on an article in Thursday's Daily Mail suggesting that Prince Charles is to marry the 23-year-old princess. (AP wirephoto).

Arafat to visit Moscow

DAMASCUS, March 31 (R). — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will leave for Moscow soon to discuss Middle East proposals made recently by Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev. It was announced here today.

Mr. Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizer, official spokesman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which is led by Mr. Arafat, gave no details of the planned visit in his announcement.

He said the PLO regarded as positive Mr. Brezhnev's proposals which were disclosed on March 21 and included support for Palestinian rights to self-determination and a phased Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Diplomatic observers said at the time that the proposals, which also called for demilitarised zones on either side of agreed borders, seemed intended to go some way towards reassuring Israel.

Mr. Abu Maizer said today: "We consider that the ideas recently put forward by Mr. Brezhnev to be positive, objective and conforming to justice. The Palestinian leadership is now studying them and they will be discussed during Mr. Arafat's visit to Moscow."

Referring to south Lebanon, where rightists are fighting a Palestinian-led alliance, Mr. Abu Maizer said the situation there was "a continuation of the Israeli-imperialist conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution."

Palestinians were anxious to ensure the stabilisation of peace in Lebanon and to enable President Sarkis to assume his responsibilities, he added.

Mr. Abu Maizer said in reply to a question that Palestinians would resume the dialogue begun recently with Jordan.

Opening Vienna conference

Waldheim appeals to Cypriot leaders to agree on a coexistence formula

VIENNA, March 31 (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim appealed to Cypriot leaders today to agree on a coexistence formula for the divided island's future administration.

Mr. Waldheim, driving force in a two-year peace effort, told Greek and Turkish Cypriots they were facing a "crucial moment" in negotiations.

The secretary general, nominated by the U.N. to provide good offices, sat between senior Cypriot negotiators at the start of their sixth round of communal talks under his auspices since April 1975.

Although no breakthrough is expected from the Vienna talks, all concerned believe there is now a better chance than ever before to end the 13-year communal crisis that has divided Cyprus into two often feuding regions.

This is because of strong pressure for a compromise settlement from the new Carter ad-

ministration in the United States, and from the nine-nation European economic community. Greece and Turkey can expect U.S. military aid if progress is made.

"This is a crucial moment. I therefore appeal to both sides to make a determined effort to narrow the gap between their positions," Mr. Waldheim said in opening the scheduled eight-day conference at Vienna's ornate diplomatic academy.

Turkish Cypriots established their own state in northern Cyprus after the Turkish army aided them in seizing nearly 40 per cent of the island's territory three years ago.

"Agreement on any one item would only become final in the framework of agreement on all," Mr. Waldheim declared.

On the negotiating process, with the communities edging towards a two-zone Cyprus under a loose federal system, he said: "I have no illusions about the difficulties of this task, but

I am convinced this is by far the best available means of making real progress."

In opening positions, the Turks want to retain about 33 per cent of total territory. The Greeks want the Turkish-controlled zone to be scaled down to about 25 per cent.

Mr. Waldheim said Turkish Cypriot envoy Umut Onar would present constitutional proposals — on the structure of a government — tomorrow.

Greek-Cypriot sources said the basic issues would be discussed in tandem, with one session devoted to territory and the next to constitutional problems.

GREEKS OFFER REGION TO TURKS

VIENNA, March 31 (R). — Greek-Cypriot negotiators today offered the Turkish community in Cyprus a separate region in a federal state, but on a scale considerably smaller than the Turks now hold. Turkish officials at the Vienna Cypriot talks said details to Nicosia, the divided Cypriot capital. But they withheld comment on the plan.

Egyptian singer dies

CAIRO, March 31 (R). — Millions of fans throughout the Arab World today mourned the death of the famous Egyptian singer, Umm Kulthum, who died in a London hospital late last night.

Mr. Hafez, 48, went to London about two months ago for treatment at King's College Hospital for a chronic liver ailment.

Known to his fans as Halim, Mr. Hafez won fame throughout the Arab World for his low serenades and nationalist songs. His concerts, especially during spring, were attended by thousands of Egyptians as Arabs who flew to Cairo especially for the occasion.

He also toured a number of Arab capitals and was decorated by several Arab leaders. His body will be flown from London for burial here.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Labour, TUC negotiations over wage restraint face rough sledding despite heavy tax cut

LONDON, March 31 (AFP). — Negotiations over another phase of wage restraint, scheduled to begin soon between the government and the powerful Trades Union Congress (TUC), face rough sledding despite the tax carrot contained in the new budget.

Long before presentation of the budget, and again in February during the first round of talks on restraint, the unions made it clear to the government that they had grave doubts about a third year of a rigid incomes policy.

On the contrary, a return to collective bargaining was strongly favoured when the TUC decided to put off taking a position until Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey made his budget proposal known earlier this week.

First reactions to Mr. Healey's tax concession — a reduction in direct income taxes — ranged from critical to furious, with much of organised labour discounting it as insufficient in return for the self-restraint exercised over the last two years.

To most, it appeared as little more than compensation for the losses inflicted by inflation over the past 12 months, and insufficient for the low paid at that.

According to Mr. Healey, the net effect of tax cuts would be to boost average wages by the equivalent of 4.5 per cent for the year starting Aug. 1. He has called for wages to

rise by no more than five per cent, compared with seven per cent in the current phase of the social contract.

Adding to the union's sense of suspicion and wariness were recent signs that inflation had flared here again. Living standards in Britain have now dropped to their 1974 level, and the chancellor's assurances that prices will stabilise this year have fallen on deaf ears.

The unions are also dissatisfied with the job outlook, judging insufficient the government's plan to create some 200,000 new positions by 1978.

Moreover, the TUC was put off by what it considered the poor productivity outlook overshadowed by the budget. But the government still has some cards up its sleeve to bargain with, beginning with an offer to boost retirement benefits. Also being reserved by the government was a proposal that would bring down prices of goods judged going up too fast despite the current restriction profit margins.

Britain's opposition in Brussels to a proposed three per cent average increase in EEC farm prices was also part of the government's grand scheme for getting another year of a voluntary incomes policy.

In the end, the political situation appears likely to be the final arbiter. The deal worked out between the ruling Labour Party, which no longer holds a majority of seats in parliament, and the Liberals, forced

Mr. Healey to draw up a tight budget so as not to compromise the economy's future before the next general elections. The trade unions, vigorously opposed to a return of the Conservatives to power, also

have every interest in seeing Mr. Healey succeed, and in effect pledged to work in that direction after the Labour Party's success last week in defeating a no-confidence motion in parliament.

Studies underway to set up Latin American-Arab bank

SANTIAGO, March 31 (R). — Arab bank officials were today reported to be studying the feasibility of setting up a Latin American-Arab Bank as one way of channelling Arab funds to the region without the intervention of international financial agencies.

The Arab officials are attending a meeting here of the Association of Latin American Development Organisations (ALIDE).

Conference sources said talks on the proposed project were going on between banking officials from both sides, but no

details were known. They said those taking part in the talks here include Dr. Abdul Wahab Al Tammar, President and Director General of the Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company, Dr. Abdullah Saudi, President of the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank and representatives of the Banco Espanol Arabe.

The five-day ALIDE meeting began here yesterday attended by more than 400 delegates and observers from Latin America, Europe, Japan and the Middle East.

Where to pick ideal job in developed nations

PARIS, March 31 (AFP). — Employers in Sweden are more "socially progressive" than their counterparts in six other leading industrial nations, the French business monthly L'Expansion has found.

West Germany was second on a broad-based index measuring wages, job security and readiness to deal with trade unions, followed by France, the United States, Italy and Japan. Britain brought up the rear, but the running was close for all seven.

The survey, which also took into consideration the length of hours worked and job training possibilities, was based on data from 25 companies in four major industries — steel, autos, banks and railroads.

It found that Swedish workers toiled the least for the highest wages. Workers in France and Italy put in the next least amount of time on the job.

It also found that high wages go hand-in-hand with other job benefits, making seven of the

nine companies ranked most socially progressive also the best paying.

Turning to relations between trade unions and employers, L'Expansion noted that friction was strongest in France and Italy. Problems exist in Sweden and Germany too, it said, but are generally overcome with relative ease. In Japan, a spirit of collaboration.

It said that a Swedish typist earns three times more than her British counterpart, representing the trend for wages overall. Sweden pays its workers the most followed by Germany, the U.S., and France. Workers in Italy and Britain earn the least.

Summing up, L'Expansion said that the ideal job would include training in France, working in Japan (where employment is stable, picking up one's pay in Sweden, Germany or the U.S. and bargaining in Britain. For retirement, it said, one was best advised to go to Italy.

Will Kamal Junblatt's assassination remain an unresolved crime?

AMMAN, March 31 (R). — Who killed Kamal Junblatt, the most notable victim of two years of civil strife that have claimed 30,000 lives in Lebanon?

Politicians and diplomats trying to solve the riddle of the death of the country's leftist leader have only a few ambiguous clues about the identity of the gunman who ambushed him on a winding mountain road near Beirut on March 16.

But there are a host of theories about who might have planned the murder.

There have been suggestions, in public or private, that it was Israel — not any Arab country — the Palestine Liberation Front — or the Lebanese right — or the extreme left — or rivals within Mr. Junblatt's own Druze community.

The murder led to an explosion of violence in his native Shouf area in which more than 100 people died.

The Arab League peace-keeping force prevented it from spreading.

The way in which the operation was carried out bore the hallmarks of careful planning, though the assassin's escape in a hijacked car, after they had crashed their own, may not have been part of the original scenario.

Mr. Junblatt's death leaves the left weaker and more fragmented, less able to insist on internal reform on a strong

role for the Palestinians in Lebanon.

For he was the only leftist leader of stature in Lebanon.

Some circumstantial evidence points towards Syrian involvement but these clues could just as well have been manufactured by another party to throw investigators off the scent.

One of Mr. Junblatt's political allies from the Shouf, a district of wooden hills south of Beirut, said he did not believe it was in Syria's interest to kill Mr. Junblatt.

A leading official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Mr. Junblatt was the staunchest ally in Lebanon, thought the same.

The murder took place while all the main Palestinian leaders were gathered in Cairo for the meeting of their parliament — the National Council.

Publicly little has been said about who might have been responsible but predictably propaganda has become entangled in the war of words between the rival Baathist rulers in Damascus and Baghdad.

Iraq was dragged into the story early because the four killers used a sports car with Baghdad number plate.

Iraqi officials said the number plates were stolen from an Iraqi businessman's car in

Damascus at the end of February.

More confusion came when documents apparently relating to the car were delivered anonymously to a Renter bureau in an Arab capital.

They appeared to be genuine Iraqi and Lebanese customs papers but there was no way of confirming their authenticity they could have been a clever forgery intended to spread further confusion.

According to these documents an Iraqi named Hussein Jaafar Kasem Jawad was given authority to drive the brown Pontiac sports car in Baghdad at the end of December.

He brought the car into Lebanon six days before Mr. Junblatt died.

Privately many Arab politicians and officials suspect Israel was behind the killing, possibly making use of specially trained Arab agents.

Whoever staged the assassination must have known that it could stir up Lebanon again after four months of peace imposed by the Arab deterrent force.

President Assad, faced with the costly and politically sensitive Syrian role in Lebanon, would never want to stir things up further, according to analysts of Arab affairs.

Mr. Junblatt was a Druze feudal chieftain as well as a leftist politician — and in the first rush of guessing as to who killed him, young Druze hotheads blamed their Christian neighbours. (The Druze sect is an 11th century offshoot of Islam).

A handful of Druzes may have sacred some 100 of them the same night, many of the victims were from families politically allied to Mr. Junblatt.

There was a longstanding political rivalry between him and Mr. Camille Chamoun, the former Lebanese President and leader of the Conservative Christians in the Shouf.

But the possible involvement in the affair of Mr. Chamor or his supporters is ruled out by political analysts who say the slaughter would be indefensible if such an involvement were proved.

When Mr. Junblatt's secretary was kidnapped during the war, Mr. Chamoun intervened personally to have him released and his rival released unharmed.

Other speculation centred on the Palestine Liberation Front which is backed by Iraq.

The theory was that it might want to stir up Lebanon again. It is largely discounted because the loss of the command best ally in Lebanon would seem to be too high a price to pay.

For the same reason it itself has scarcely been considered as a serious possibility despite the Baghdad number plates.

The Lebanese authorities have begun investigations in the killing but such inquiry into politically motivated violence in Lebanon have a very low success rate.

The chances are that the Junblatt assassination will remain another unsolved crime.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices lost some more ground Thursday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average fell about two points in sluggish trading.

The market has now declined during 10 of the past 11 sessions and the average, which has lost 50 points since last March 17, is at its lowest level since January 1976.

American investors keep worrying about inflation, interest rates and President Carter's energy programme and nothing seems to be able to put the market back on the right track.

Losers led gains at the bell by a 755 to 588 margin as most groups of shares closed on a mixed to lower tone. Auto manufacturers were hard hit and General Motors fell 1 3/8 to 66 3/4. Oil, aircraft and television issues, however, were generally steady. Westinghouse rose 3/8 to 18 1/8 in active trading while Kodak fell 1/2 to \$88.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 919.13, a loss of 2.05 points; Transp at 223.97, a loss of 0.64; utilities at 106.02, a gain of 0.45; 16,510,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,920,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market was easier in relatively light trading at 15:00 Thursday. The Ft. index was down 5.8 at 421.4.

Much of today's activity was centred around government bonds, which ended with net rises of about 1/8 among longer loans and 1/8 falls in shorts after a small two way trade earlier said.

There was a £300 million exchequer 9-1/4 per cent 1982 stock announced at 1530 will help market sentiment, dealers added. They expected bonds to move higher when trading resumes at 1615 BST.

The equity market moved lower on lack of follow through interest and light profit-taking. Fisons was main loser falling 13p while tube investments came back 8p after press comment on its results.

Gold shares drifted lower in slack trading. Dollar stocks and Canadians also fell.

Trading news made for mixed movements. Lucas and Cadbury Schweppes were each a penny up while Bover and Bridon eased a penny and 3p respectively. Herbert Morris was a penny down after the agreed bid from Hawker Siddeley which declined 5p. Dalgety was 4p up following the rights issue proposal and profits forecast.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$148.50/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* KUWAIT, March 31 (R). — An Arab five-member ministerial committee has recommended streamlining Arab scientific and technological programmes and policies. This came at the end of a three-day meeting here last night designed to follow up discussions held by ministers responsible for science and technology in the Arab countries. The committee decided to set up a technical group to be based in Kuwait to consider the financial requirements of establishing a special fund for scientific research. The fund will have an estimated \$500 million capital to be contributed by Arab governments and institutions in the form of donations or long-term, interest-free loans.

* TOKYO, March 31 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia's decision to limit its crude oil price to 5 per cent will contribute to "the stability of the world economy," Prime Minister Takeo Miki said today. He also told Saudi Arabia's Planning Minister Hisham Nazer, who was on a courtesy call, that Japan hoped to strengthen its economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia through the work of their joint committee.

* HONG KONG, March 31 (R). — President Souphanouvong of Laos had talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Laos, Mustafa Anista Farini, here yesterday, the Pathet Lao News Agency reported today.

* AMMAN, March 31 (R). — Non-Iraqi Arabs may be appointed to official jobs in Iraq and enjoy the same service conditions as Iraqi nationals, Baghdad Radio reported yesterday. It said this was decided by the Revolutionary Command Council. Yesterday, Iraq told foreign companies operating in the country to take the necessary steps to provide enough skilled workers and experts to carry out projects.

* NAIROBI, March 31 (R). — President Idi Amin, a keen basketball player and swimmer, plans to get his cabinet and top civil servants fit with compulsory sport. Radio Uganda today quoted an announcement by a spokesman for the president's office that all cabinet ministers and permanent secretaries not engaged in duties outside Kampala must practise basketball every evening from next week.

* MOSCOW, March 31 (R). — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov has held talks here with a senior Algerian military expert, Col. Abdul Hamid Latrech, Tass news agency reported today. Tass gave no details of yesterday's discussions, but observers said they were likely to centre on continued Kremlin aid to Algeria.

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